

into the Patent Office stay there and, thus, improve the quality of the patents that our people have.

Over a billion dollars has been taken from the Patent Office in the last 10 years and goes into the general fund when it should be spent trying to protect—and trying to make the system work—intellectual property ownership by inventors.

That is the last I have on that piece of legislation, which is H.R. 9, which deserves the attention of the American people.

I would like to end my time tonight talking about one other issue very quickly. Today, I introduced legislation, H.R. 1940, which basically says that the Federal Government shall not interfere in those States that have eliminated the penalties on marijuana use and sales or have allowed the operation of medical marijuana dispensaries.

This legislation, H.R. 1940, would basically leave it up to the States as to whether or not people should be permitted to use marijuana, especially medical marijuana.

I don't see any reason why the people of the United States should face the type of controls and the type of police state activity that impacts their lives by people—whether they are well meaning or not—who have set up, basically, a bureaucratic law enforcement state that activates and prevents people from living their own lives.

If, indeed, someone is using marijuana—for medical purposes especially, but also even for recreational use—if someone is in their backyard, smoking some marijuana, we should not spend limited dollars.

We have limited tax dollars here. We are cutting off veterans' benefits, cutting down on people who need help, but then we are spending it on trying to put in jail someone who is smoking marijuana in their backyard or trying to supply someone with the marijuana to smoke in their backyard. That is absolutely absurd.

My bill, H.R. 1940, will insist that, if a State has legalized the use of marijuana or the medical use of marijuana, the Federal Government cannot infringe upon that.

It is sort of like you see a guy over in the corner of a park, and he is surrounded by policemen, and they throw him to the ground, and they handcuff him and put him in jail, and they go through the court procedures with the judges and all these expenses for smoking marijuana, versus the other end of the park, where some lady is getting raped, but there is no policeman there, and they spend all of their money focusing on the people who are smoking marijuana. That makes no sense.

When you have limited dollars, we should especially respect people's right to live their own lives; and, if they make mistakes, which they do, they will have to live with those mistakes.

I would ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1940, which is consistent with

criminal law should be made at the State and local level and not at the Federal level. We should not have a Federal police force knocking in doors, going into people's homes, and spending huge amounts of money in order to prevent people from personal consumption behavior.

I would ask my colleagues, if you believe in liberty, believe what our Founding Fathers believed in, support a strong patent system and oppose H.R. 9 and support my legislation, H.R. 1940, which will restore to the American people and to the States therein the right to control criminal law and their own personal behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CURBELO of Florida (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of attending a Presidential visit to the Everglades National Park in his district.

Mr. HASTINGS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for April 21 through April 23.

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the first series of votes today on account of medical appointment regarding foot surgery.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 971. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program; to the Committee on Ways and Means; in addition, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 984. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; in addition, to the Committee on Ways and Means for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 535. An act to promote energy efficiency.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 26 minutes

p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 23, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1239. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-39, "Public Charter School Priority Enrollment Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1240. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-40, "Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools Salary Adjustment Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1241. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-41, "Health Benefit Exchange Authority Financial Sustainability Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1242. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-42, "Educator Evaluation Data Protection Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1243. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-38, "Wage Theft Prevention Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1244. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-43, "At-Risk Funding Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1245. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-37, "H Street, N.E., Retail Priority Area Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1246. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 20-492, "Student Nutrition on Winter Weather Days Act of 2014", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1247. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-48, "Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1248. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-49, "Marijuana Possession Decriminalization Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1249. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-44, "Vending Regulations Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to